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TRIUMPHI POMPA APUD ROMANOS.

CARMEN LATINUM

IN THEATRO SHELDONIANO RECITATUM

DIE JUNII XX MDCCCXLIV

3.

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TRIUMPHI POMPA APUD ROMANOS.

GENTIS Romanæ cineres æternaque circum
Mœnia ductus adhuc sinuoso flumine Thybris
Respicit herbosum collem, tentataque Gallis
Culmina saxorum, viduâ quà mole columnæ
Horrentes superant dumos, mentitaque nomen
Antiquum tenui surgunt Capitolia fastu :—
—Vasta situ, et placidâ dudum loca sancta quiete.
Attamen hìc olim, bello dum Roma vigebat,
Ante Jovem (jam fana jacent, neque Jupiter usquam
Numen habet) sævos fasces, positumque tribunal
Consulis, et ductas pariter sub signa cohortes
Cernere erat: patriis hinc acer miles in armis
Prodibat sacra testatus Geniumque locorum
Custodemque Deum, seu gens Tyrrhena pararet
Insidias celeresque dolos, seu linqueret Alpes
Gallus, et infesto fremeret Latium omne tumultu.
Atque huc, quum propriâ præsens victoria lauru
Velârat sublimè comas, hostisque minaces
Conciderant strepitus, ad templa faventia votis
Flectere equos victor, spolia et pretiosa per aras

Fundere Diis pugnæ auspicibus, Patrique Quirino.
  Aspicis, ut præceps salebroso tramite callis
Per juga formosâ latè collapsa ruinâ
Ambiguum demittat iter? Solennia pompæ
Inde olim spatia, et multis bacchata triumphis
Strata viæ: gravis hâc Marius, contemptor et auri
Fabricius, Cossusque ferox, niveisque Camillus
Ibat equis; necnon Cæninâ victor ab urbe
Romulus, in nemus et frondosa cacumina montis
Laureolâ insignis socios deduxit ovantes,
Armaque in annosâ suspendit regia quercu.
  Sæpius hìc festi post sæva pericula cives
Collecto fremuere choro turbâque frequenti,
Dum procul hinnitus audiri, visaque primis
Densari via Sacra rotis, sive ima Palatî
Saxa legens curvum jam sese ostenderet agmen.
Mox propior visu latoque effusior ibat
Pompa Foro; jamque ante oculos splendere recentes
Exuvias, et capta Deûm simulachra videbant,
Atque catenatos duci longo ordine Reges.
Nunc jacet informis latè, tumulosaque putri
Terra herbâ, Superûmque domos privataque condit
Atria: vix arcus veteri sub rupe superstes
Prima viæ signat, fracto vix tramite noscas
Quà sese oppositi circum latera ardua clivi
Flexerit, et curvos inceperit orbita cursus.
  Gesta tamen regum, antiquis ibi clara tropæis,
Tergemino servant pendentes fornice flores;

Quà fuga Parthorum, torvique insculpta Severi
Effigies nitet; aut eversæ fata Sionis
Aspicias, sanctoque Aquilas insistere Templo;
Nec procul illius titulos, Byzantia primus
Mœnia qui patriæ Romanus prætulit urbi.
  Suave laboratas moles et prisca tueri
Marmora, queîs magnæ laudis mens conscia, famam
Indignata brevem tacitæque silentia mortis,
Impressit monumenta sui, simulachraque rerum
Indidit; heroumque animos et fortia facta
Mirari in saxo, vivosque ediscere vultus.
  Intereà, obtutu dum fixi hæremus in uno,
Paulatim raptos cepere oblivia sensus,
Scenaque mutari, et rerum veneranda renasci
Nomina, jamque oculis species nova surgere nostris.
Roma caput mundi septem divisa per arces
Adversâ sub luce nitet; non marmore Graio
Aut Ægyptiacis splendens sublimè columnis,
Intonsi sed qualis erat sub fasce modesto
Scipiadæ, Fabiûmque, ubi jam de Tibure saxum
Magnificum, et solis credebant utile templis.
Undique candenti properantes veste Quirites
Sacra ferunt: pars festivas accingere lauru
Concertant de more fores, pars nectere multo
Flore Deos, et thura omnes adolere per aras.
Obsedere alii turres et celsa domorum
Culmina templorumque aditus, pompa unde videri
Ingressusque triumphales et ovantia possint

Agmina; pars toto frondentia pulpita Circo
Inque Foro posuere: latus declive Palatî
Confertis stat densum humeris; ceu flamine primo
Quum tumet assurgens et mille incanuit undis
Oceanus; vel cum segetem delapsus in almam
Huc illuc Zephyrus condensa cacumina versat,—
Fluctuat omnis ager, celeresque moventur aristæ.
Paullum omnes, Paullum ingeminant, qui Persea bello
Fuderit, et Graias Romano Marte phalanges.
Illius auspiciis Pelopeas alma per urbes
Libertas iterum caput erigit; ille superbos
Regum apices, genus excelsâ de stirpe Philippi,
Ferre jugum, et fasci docuit servire Latino.
At subito tacuere, simul compressus et omnis
Impetus. Ante oculos laxis compagibus arctæ
Dissiluere fores; portâ venit agmen apertâ,
Affectatque viam. Spectandum in curribus altis
Phidiacum portatur ebur, vivæque tabellæ,
Cecropiis erepta diu spolia inclyta templis.
Succedunt, tractuque gravi per strata viarum
Plaustra sonant onerata armis; confusa feruntur
Spicula cum clypeis, miles quos Gnossius olim
Gesserat, et galeæ læves, mistisque pharetris
Bistonidum peltæ, gladiique hastæque coruscant.
Quid varios referam calices, atque aspera signis
Pocula? quid gemmis regum crateras et auro
Insignes, vastoque argenti pondere tardos
Stridere sarracorum orbes? Quin tristis imago

Lugentis vehitur terræ; mirantur ahenis
Castella in tumulis, fictum mirantur Olympum,
Pendentesque auro sylvas, et mœnia Pydnæ.
Tum strepere horrendum litui, clangorque tubarum
Audiri, velut oppositum Romanus in hostem
Quum ruit, ardentesque accendunt classica pugnas.
Inde tui, Clitumne, greges, queîs infula frontem
Alligat, et tenui circumdant tempora vittæ
Compede; candentes humeros aurataque circum
Cornua purpurei nectunt retinacula flores.
Nec procul Hæmonii currus, et regia gentis
Arma micant, fratrisque olim diadema paratum
Sanguine. [1]Subsequitur proles captiva tyranni
Jam tenero miseranda ævo; tamen inscia sortis
Ipsa suæ, pompam mirans circumspicit omnem,
Insuetasque hominum facies, et non sua tecta,
Nec dignatur adhuc flentes audire magistros,
Nec vitam petere, et duplices extendere palmas.
Quis tamen ille, gregem qui sic comitatur euntem
Attonitus, tanquam ventis afflatus et igni
Fulmineo? sic ora vacant, sic membra moventur
Sponte suâ, fixique rigent in sedibus orbes.
Non ebur intextum, clarâ non purpura veste

[1] "At a little distance Perseus' children were led captive, attended by a great number of governors, masters, and preceptors, all in tears, who stretched out their hands by way of supplication to the spectators, and taught the children to do the same." *Plutarch. in Vit. Æmilii.*

Enitet: Emathio tantum de more recingunt
Vincla pedes; humeris ater dependet amictus.
Sed gemitus circa comitum, sed lumina in unum
Conversa, et mœsti tacita observantia vultûs
Significat Regem; neque enim sua vincula plorat
Fida cohors; regi invigilat, regi imminet omnis,
Huic timet, huic longo ducit suspiria luctu.
Jamque ipse ante oculos, quem plebs, quem Roma salutat,
Factaque, fortunamque, et laudes nubibus æquans,
Consul adest—Pæana canunt. Proh pectora frustra
Cæca hominum! Pompamque inter plaususque secundos
Dum stupet, et simulat composto gaudia vultu,
Corda dolor premit intus agens. Quid laurea tandem,
Quid currus aut sceptra juvant? quid turba faventûm
Plurima, si feretro indormit, magis omnibus unum
Quem pater optasset comitem; qui primus amicâ
Voce decus patrium, et plenos celebrârat honores?[2]
Parce tamen flendo, atque ingentes comprime luctus;
Nam lateri tibi sospes adest, qui nomine quanquam

[2] "Non Perseus tantum per illos dies documentum humanorum casuum fuit, in catenis ante currum victoris ducis per urbem hostium ductus; sed etiam victor Paullus, auro purpurâque fulgens. Nam duobus e filiis, quos, duobus datis in adoptionem, solos nominis, sacrorum, familiæque hæredes retinuerat domi, minor, ferme duodecim annos natus, quinque diebus ante triumphum, major, quatuordecim annorum, triduo post triumphum decessit: quos prætextatos curru vehi cum patre, sibi ipsos similes prædestinantes triumphos, oportuerat." *Liv.* xlv. c. 40.

Clarus adoptivo, factis ad sidera tollet
Æmilios; illum primo jam Marte furentem
Videre Emathii; mox diruta templa relinquens
Arce Numantinâ Byrsæque in mœnibus ignes
Flectet anhelantes Capitolia ad alta quadrigas.
Scilicet his animis, hôc olim munere lætæ
Æneadûm viguere artes et maxima bello
Gloria; sic omnis penitus surrexit in arma
Italia; hinc Danaûm clades, hinc irrita virtus
Rejectæque minæ Pœnorum, Indusque Latinis
Additus imperiis, terrarumque ultima Thule
Audiit impositas peregrino milite leges.
Ergo incumbere adhuc veteresque evolvere fastos
Fert animus, jamque alta sequens fastigia rerum
Laurigerum revocare æterni nominis agmen.
Libera Publicolâ primùm victore triumphos
Vidit Roma novos, pulsis quum Tusca tyrannis
Deficeret manus, et Sylvæ pæana sonarent[3].
Longa inde heroum series. En! cura Deorum[4]
Postumius venit: en! curvi moderator aratri
Quinctius! Insequitur referens scuta aurea Cursor

[3] "Adjiciunt miracula huic pugnæ: silentio proximæ noctis ex silvâ Arsià ingentem editam vocem; Silvani vocem eam creditam; hæc dicta, 'Uno plus Etruscorum cecidisse in acie; vincere bello Romanum.'" *Liv.* ii. 7.

[4] Referring to the apparition of Castor and Pollux at the Lake Regillus. *Liv.* ii. 20.

Ornamenta Foro, et lautis decora alta Tabernis[5].
Quin redit incomptos redimitus fronde capillos
Œacidæ Curius gazas, turritaque jactans
Lucarum terga ampla boum: Quem torquibus urget
Nobilis Insubrium, conversique omine voti[6]
Flaminius;—felix, si non vidisset Etrusci
Stagna lacûs, Pœnoque obsessos milite saltus.
Hos Umbræ misere arces, flumenque Metaurum,
Egregios famâ parili: nec Livius ullâ
Laude prior, licet alter equum post agmina Consul
Solus agat, nullâque manu stipante suorum[7]:
At fremit Hannibalem lusum, fraudesque Neronis
Tota cohors, miscetque suo cum consule nomen.
Scipiadæ ducunt gemini læta agmina fratres,
Hic Asiæ clarus spoliis; illustrior uno
Hic titulo, victum Ausonii quòd nominis hostem
Turba legit, cladem Italiæ. Quid gentis Achææ
Exitium referam, bimarisque incensa Corinthi
Mœnia? Quid Marii laudes, fastusque superbos
Ultoris Syllæ, reducemque ad fræna Senatum[8]?
Eminet ante alios regali insignis amictu

[5] Liv. ix. 40.

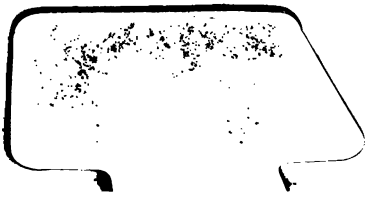
[6] The Insubres had made a vow to offer a chain (torquem) to their Gods which was to be made of the Roman spoils. Flaminius brought to Rome a great spoil of golden 'torques' taken from themselves.

[7] Liv. xxviii. 9.

[8] Sylla returned to Rome with a great number of noble exiles, who accompanied his triumphal procession on horseback.

Pompeius; juga cui variis ardentia gemmis
Gætulæ subiere feræ; micat agmen onustum
Tot regum exuviis: illic argentea signa,
Hic lapides baccæque nitent; mox Indica pubes
Fert ebenum, Syrii gestant sua balsama servi.
Quis procul ille autem tædarum lumine multo
Per noctem ingreditur? nosco comites elephantos,
Lychnigeram seriem; scandit Capitolia Cæsar,
Sidus uti lucem referens; vis ignea flammæ
Quadrijugûm lambit phaleras, captivaque tela
Gallorum; micat æs rutilum, ferrumque coruscat[9].
Fallor? an Hebræis adytis arâque revulsæ
Ante oculos portantur opes? Ecce aurea fulgent
Vasa Domûs, Solymæque semel prærepta ruinis
Nequicquam, ramo septemplice mystica Lampas.
Fertur et in manibus vivâ descripta tabellâ
Sub palmâ Judæa sedens: quam forte, supremis
Casibus insultans, Syrius sub mœnia pictor
Fecerit, addideritque decus, quod viderat olim
Collibus in patriis; mœstum spirare videtur,
Et gemere, et tristes Virgo demittere vultus.
Longè alio incedunt gestu, quos victor adurgens
Insequitur propiùs, spumisque humectat equorum,
Flavius: afflictæ non illos funera gentis,
Non captæ domuere arces, aræque parentum

9 "Ascendit Capitolium ad lumina, quadraginta elephantis, dextrâ atque sinistrâ lychnuchos gestantibus." *Sueton. in Vit. Julii.*

Cælitus eversæ exitio; stupet Itala pubes
Fixa oculos, viresque timet vultusque superbos
Vinctorum, certâque animos in morte feroces.—
Ergo agite, Ausonii, sævos celebrate triumphos,
Dum licet;—ignari tantis quam parvula rebus
Stet fato concessa dies. Jam lugubre cælum
Ominibus scatet, et venturi præscia casûs
Pallescunt simulachra Deûm, suspiriaque alta
Audit, et insolitâ gemitus sub noete sacerdos.
Magnus adest, jamque Hebræis e montibus Ultor
Exiit, Indigetes Divos et prisca locorum
Qui turbet sacra, cui cedet Rex Jupiter Arcis,
Et Mars, et Bellona:—Illi non horrida bella,
Non enses galeæque placent; sed munera pacis
Casta ferent, gratæque albo velamine turbæ
Innocuas ducent pura ad donaria pompas.

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